



May 22, 2013

The Honorable Kenneth Kurtz, Chair  
House Families, Children, and Seniors Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: HB 4436

Dear Representative Kurtz:

Michigan Assisted Living Association (MALA) is submitting this letter in support of the intent of HB 4436 to broaden the availability of Medicaid funding for licensed adult foster care facilities. Our organization's 1,000 members provide services to over 35,000 older adults and persons with disabilities throughout the state. The vast majority of our members provide these services in licensed adult foster care (AFC) facilities and licensed homes for the aged (HFAs).

We support a more flexible Medicaid funding mechanism for licensed AFC facilities as would be provided under HB 4436. We recommend that any change in the availability of Medicaid funding for licensed AFC facilities be equally applicable to licensed HFAs.

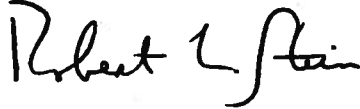
As a major public policy change is considered under HB 4436, we also urge that the Michigan Legislature evaluate the current effectiveness of the MI Choice waiver and the nursing home transition process. We support both of these Medicaid funded alternatives to nursing home care.

Another Medicaid funding source currently exists for adult foster care and home for the aged providers. These providers receive a very modest Medicaid personal care supplement payment of \$192.38 per month for some of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) residents for whom services are provided. An increase in this funding source would enhance the state of Michigan's efforts to provide alternatives to nursing home care.

Finally, our organization recommends that any initiative to broaden Medicaid funding for licensed AFC facilities and licensed HFAs should not result in additional regulations for these licensed settings. They are already subject to strict regulation by the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing within the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments. Please contact our organization if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more legible than the last name "Stein".

ROBERT L. STEIN  
General Counsel

Rep. Tom Hooker, Majority Vice-Chair  
Rep. Cindy Denby  
Rep. Rick Outman  
Rep. Klint Kesto  
Rep. Roger Victory  
Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright, Minority Vice-Chair  
Rep. Dian Slavens  
Rep. Robert Kosowski